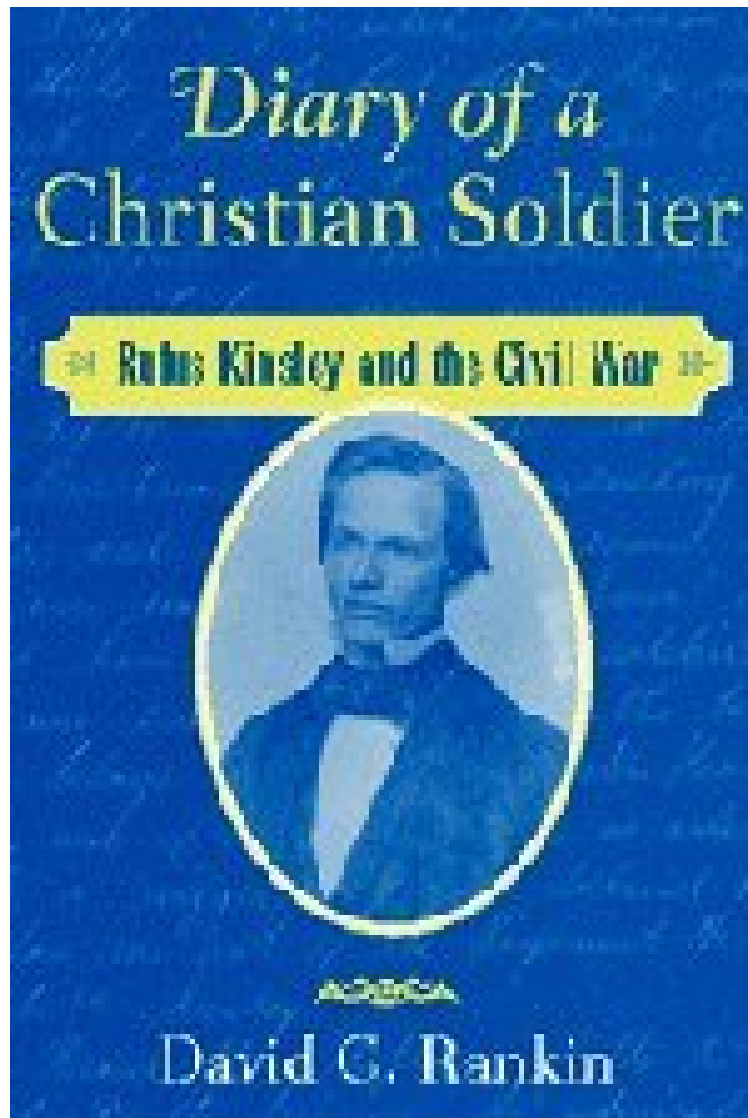


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Diary of a Christian Soldier: Rufus Kinsley and the Civil War

David C. Rankin

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David C. Rankin : Diary of a Christian Soldier: Rufus Kinsley and the Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Diary of a Christian Soldier: Rufus Kinsley and the Civil War:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Interesting but maybe not one of the best By Frank Grimes This was an interesting read for sure but it was not one I would put atop the pantheon of great Civil War literature. I gave it a solid four because I did get an A on my paper over it. So I cannot judge harshly

Rufus Kinsley was a farmer from rural Vermont who became an officer in one of the nation's first and most famous black regiments during the Civil War. *Diary of a Christian Soldier* offers a meticulous reconstruction of Kinsley's life and an annotated transcription of his hitherto unpublished wartime diary, which sheds light on a long neglected theater of the war—the battle for the bayou country of southwestern Louisiana—and illuminates the workaday routines of black and white soldiers stationed behind Union lines. Kinsley's diary reveals that he was a dedicated evangelical abolitionist soldier who believed that the war and its consequences were divine retribution for the sin of slavery and that he believed that the Civil War was not actually about saving the Union, but about freeing slaves. David Rankin's biography places Kinsley's Civil War experience in the context of his life and times. David C. Rankin, who has received fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies and the Charles Warren Center at Harvard University, has written extensively on slavery, the South, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. His articles have appeared in the *Journal of Southern History*, *Perspectives in American History*, and other publications; he is also the editor of *My Passage at the New Orleans "Tribune": A Memoir of the Civil War Era* (Louisiana State University, 2001).

"Rankin has written a meticulous introductory biography...superb editorial work. [The work] more than succeeds as a jeremiad, replete with biblical prophecies and scriptural notations from a dedicated abolitionist and champion of the temperance movement... Recommended for New England and Civil War collections as well as large libraries." - *Library Journal*"*Diary of a Christian Soldier: Rufus Kinsley and the Civil War* provides a vivid firsthand account of the Union struggle for control of the Louisiana bayous and of life among the African American soldiers who served there." - *The Journal of Southern History*, James H. Moorhead, Princeton Theological Seminary"*Rufus Kinsley's diary* offers an insight into a region not often covered in Civil War writing, the experiences of slaves becoming freedmen and the inner world of being an officer in a Civil War regiment. War was not all glory. Readers will enjoy Kinsley's candor as they read of his wartime experiences." - *H-CivWar*, Donald Wickman, Librarian/Archivist, Woodstock Historical Society